



Waltham Forest News

Your Council keeping residents informed

www.walthamforest.gov.uk

Issue 60, 20 February 2012



Dear Resident,

You've told us that you would like us to do more to improve the borough's streets, and attract better shops and leisure facilities.

We couldn't agree more, and that's why we're committed to creating a better place to live for our residents.

As your council it is our role to strive to help residents have a better quality of life. We want to continue to make the borough a more attractive place where people choose to live, invest and spend time. We do this by managing

developments and planning applications, and attracting and retaining investment in the borough.

We intend to improve local facilities for local people, so residents have access to the things they want on their doorstep. We are focusing on creating better streets, better shopping and better leisure facilities for you to use and enjoy.

Although not all the changes can happen overnight, we will keep you up to date on the work we are doing and when you will see changes start to happen.

Chris Robbins
Leader of Waltham Forest Council

www.walthamforest.gov.uk/betterplace



Better Streets ■ Better Shopping ■ Better Leisure

Creating a better place to live



Better Streets ■ **Better Shopping** ■ **Better Leisure**

Creating a better place to live

We're transforming the borough's streets, pavements and public spaces so they'll look great for 2012 and years to come.

You have told us you think improvements to streets and public spaces are a top priority for developing the borough. As a host borough to the 2012 Games we have secured more than £22million of government funding to invest in making our borough's streets safer and more attractive.

As a host borough to the 2012 Games we have secured more than £22million of government funding.

Improvement works have been taking place along High Road Leyton from Drapers Field to Leyton Cricket Ground, this has included renewing shop

fronts, new street lighting, removing signs and street furniture, renewing pavements and adding more planting, making this area more visually appealing to residents, businesses and visitors.

Ruckholt Road is also receiving a makeover as a key route into the Olympic Park. The Ruckholt Road foot and cycle bridge will be installed in March 2012, this will provide vital access to the Olympic Park during the Games and the fantastic facilities that will remain there for our residents after. All improvement works on Ruckholt Road are expected to be completed during April 2012.

The Wood Street area has been granted nearly £4million from Transport for London and the Outer London Fund for improvements to the centre. Work on the Plaza has been completed and other

work in the area is expected to be completed by June 2012 and will include:

- Widening and renewing pavements
- Improving cycle lanes
- Installing new cycle stands
- New street lighting and signage
- New trees and plants

This is just a selection of the work being done to improve our borough's streets. You can find out more about other street improvements online at: www.walthamforest.gov.uk/betterplace



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Party on the Pitch with Alexandra Burke

Apply now for tickets to see Alexandra Burke and a host of other pop talent at Council's Party on the Pitch

The first act for Waltham Forest's fantastic Party on the Pitch concert has now been confirmed: UK R&B megastar Alexandra Burke.

With four number ones and millions of sales to her name, the 2008 X Factor winner has more than got what it takes to get Leyton Orient Stadium dancing.

Ticketholders can expect an array of smash hits when Burke struts her stuff at the free event on Saturday 19 May as part of an evening of fantastic live music.

Alexandra's new single Elephant is released on 11 March.

Leader of Waltham Forest Council Chris Robbins, told Waltham Forest News: "The Big 6 events are all about helping local people celebrate the Olympic Year, and Party on the Pitch is already shaping up to be a real show-stopper.

"We're still finalising the full line-up, but with talent like Alexandra already confirmed you can bet that the night will be one our residents will never forget."

Tickets for Party on the Pitch will be completely free to anyone living in Waltham Forest and residents will be able to apply for tickets from 12 noon today,

Monday 20 February until 12 noon on Wednesday 4 April. The tickets will be distributed through a random online ballot, with priority given to Waltham Forest residents. You can apply for a maximum of six tickets with one application per household. The first ballot will be drawn on Thursday 5 April and any remaining tickets will be allocated in a second ballot on Friday 27 April.

Party on the Pitch is the third of the Council's Big 6 events. The Big 6 are a series of six free high-quality events hosted across the borough to help residents celebrate the Olympic Year.

The events are being funded entirely by one-off funding opportunities generated by the 2012 Games.

More info

To apply for tickets visit www.walthamforestbig6.co.uk, www.facebook.com/walthamforestbig6 or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Thebig6events to keep up-to-date with the latest news. Free internet access is available at all libraries in the borough.



Party on the Pitch

Alexandra Burke is the first act confirmed for Party on the Pitch. Photo by Simon Harris.

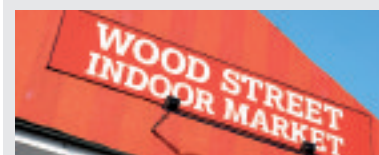
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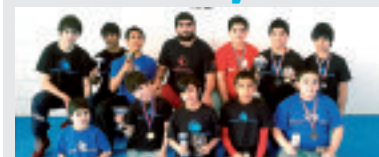
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Are you an overstayer in the UK or a failed asylum seeker?
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Paul John & Co Solicitors

020 8215 1205

In my opinion

Steve Leader

Walthamstow Fire Station Manager



Walthamstow Fire Station will reopen this week after a major rebuilding project and it is not only good news for the fire fighters who will be based there, but also for residents of Waltham Forest and east London.

The project began in April 2010, when the old station closed to allow for a complete rebuild on the site. While the old station had served the area well for over 80 years it was no longer suitable for the needs of the fire service. In the end it was just too small to house the vehicles and staff needed.

The new fire station will have an extra fire engine and an additional 20 fire fighters. The new building has three 'appliance bays' that are suitable for the largest fire appliances (engines) that the London Fire Brigade currently uses. This is not just important for Waltham Forest, but also the rest of east London as it means we have all the necessary equipment to deal with emergencies in this area and neighbouring boroughs.

The new building also has training facilities on site and is very energy efficient, which will save money on running costs for many years to come. In fact it has been given an 'excellent' rating under the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), which sets the standard for best practice in sustainable design.

But I think the most important thing about the new station is that it has extra community facilities, including a brand new community room. This is important because it means we can now invite schools, groups and other visitors to come along to the fire station for community days, tours and other events.

My colleagues and I will be able to give face to face advice to you about fire safety and how you can prevent the risk of fire in your home, workplace and much more.

Being in the heart of the community with a fire station that is more accessible to the public will help to reduce the amount of fires and other emergencies we attend, as there will be more opportunity to pass on advice.

We hope to host an open day when we can welcome local residents, show you the station and equipment and answer any questions that you may have.

The Fire Brigade isn't just here to put out fires, but also to stop them happening in the first place.

For more information visit www.london-fire.gov.uk

Want to have your say?

If you live or work in Waltham Forest, have something you'd like to get off your chest, and can do it in around 300 words; Waltham Forest News wants to hear from you. Email the Editor at: walthamforestnews@walthamforest.gov.uk and tell us what you'd like to write about.



Director Danny Boyle visited children in Newham to announce the schools that will take part in the London 2012 opening and closing ceremonies.

Olympic ceremonies to feature local kids

- Local children have been chosen to perform at Olympic ceremonies
- Four schools who took part in Olympics Get Set project picked to take part

Waltham Forest was proud to be one of just four Councils that managed to get all of its schools signed up to the official Olympic education programme. As a result of their involvement in that programme children from four schools in the borough have been selected to be involved in the opening and closing ceremonies of the London 2012 Games.

The London 2012 Get Set project encouraged schools to include the Olympic values of friendship, excellence, and respect, and the Paralympic values of courage,

determination, inspiration and equality in the school's ethos and development planning.

Schoolchildren from Heathcote School and Science College, St Josephs RC Junior School, Henry Maynard Junior School and Jenny Hammond Primary School who took part in that programme have been invited to be part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic opening and closing ceremonies.

In total 1,650 children auditioned for the London 2012 ceremonies mass movement team. More than 900 children will be selected over the coming weeks

to perform in the opening ceremony on Friday 27 July, watched by 80,000 people in the Olympic Stadium and a worldwide TV audience of over a billion.

Councillor Marie Pye, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, told Waltham Forest News: "This is bound to be an incredible experience for all the young people who have been lucky enough to be chosen to perform. I know many got a lot out of being part of the Get Set network even before this announcement, so this is just the icing on the cake."

Aiden McCarney from

Heathcote School and Science College added, "The 40 chosen students auditioned twice for this prestigious honour and will be rehearsing extensively from now until July. The students are extremely excited to be part of this wonderful occasion and are very grateful for the chance to be part of such a unique global event."

More info

For full details of the opening and closing ceremonies visit www.london2012.com. Free internet access is available at all libraries in the borough.

Waltham Forest News

Editor: Jenny England

Waltham Forest News wants to hear from people in the local community. If you have a story that you'd like us to cover, email walthamforestnews@walthamforest.gov.uk or call 020 8496 3000.

Advertising and promotional enquiries:

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for Waltham Forest



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The official independently audited free letterbox delivery of Waltham Forest News is 97,413, ABC Regional Jan-July 2011.

Taking on the bookies

- Council looks to address the issue of betting shops in the borough
- Leader calls for meeting with bookmakers to find a way forward



The Council is looking at concerns about the numbers of bookmakers in the borough

Waltham Forest Council is looking at concerns about the numbers of bookmakers in the borough. Council Leader Chris Robbins has written to local betting shops to invite them to the Town Hall for a meeting about the problems of bookmakers clustering in certain locations.

Statistics provided by local police have revealed worrying increases in crime and anti-social behaviour around areas where a number of betting shops cluster. In a recent report to the Council from local police, it was highlighted that 26 crimes associated with the four William Hill branches on Lea Bridge Road and High Road, Leyton have

been reported since June.

The Paddy Power bookmakers that now occupies the old Baker's Arms pub was also cited as being responsible for 18 serious incidents in the past six months. These included reports to the police of drug possession, weapon possession, theft, violence and robbery.

Council Leader Chris Robbins told Waltham Forest News: "We're working with the Local Government Association and other local politicians who have expressed concerns about betting shops."

"I recently wrote to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles MP, and was heartened to get a response that recognised the problem."

The Council has some powers to refuse bookmakers

the right to set up shop, as demonstrated recently when its Gambling Act Sub-Committee denied Betfred permission to open a new branch in High Road, Leyton.

However, the Council is looking to central Government to extend powers to deal with betting shops more effectively. Options include reforming the provisions in the 2005 Gambling Act, which relaxed controls over betting shops, and tightening up planning law to help local councils stop clustering.

More info

For more information on licensing visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/licensing. Free internet access is available at all libraries in the borough.

Businesses sought for Olympic campsite

The organisers of the temporary Olympic campsite at Low Hall Sports Ground during the London 2012 Games are inviting local businesses, artists and designers to apply for stalls and offer their services for the event.

Big Events Camping is looking for restaurants

to participate for the full 18 days; local providers and makers of fresh and gourmet food and drink to participate in the five-day Eat Festival; and designers, crafts people and artisans for a special cultural festival.

The campsite will host a festival called 'See Hear Do' from 8-12 August to

celebrate creative British talent. There will be up to 90 stalls offering arts, crafts, and much more. There will also be creative workshops, a film festival, dance, music and comedy.

The campsite will give local businesses a great opportunity to raise their profile in the borough and to

an international audience, and increase turnover for the duration of the Olympic Games.

A meeting for local business owners who are interested in providing services at the campsite will take place at Waltham Forest Town Hall on Thursday 1 March from 1 to 2.30pm.

Contact Big Events Camping for more information.



More info

For more information email info@campinlondon.com or phone 0203 589 0827 or 0755 752 6891. More information on the 2012 Games is available on the Council website at www.walthamforest.gov.uk/2012games

In brief

Wood Street consultation

Residents are being asked to take part in a consultation on a series of development proposals for Wood Street in Walthamstow. You can have your say about ideas for six areas of Wood Street: Fulbourne Road, Forest Road, Thorpe Coombe Hospital, Marlowe Road and the Plaza, Wood Street Station and Wood Street South. You can tell the Council what you think about land use, possible new housing, a potential new healthcare facility, improved access to Wood Street Station, improvements to shopping facilities and much more. The proposals can be viewed on the Council website or in person at Wood Street Library until Friday 24 February. Your comments will be used to help prepare a Wood Street Area Action Plan, which will be used to manage future development in the area. There will be further public consultation on the Area Action Plan later this year, so there are lots of opportunities for you to give your views to the Council.

• For more information visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/wood-street-area-action-plan or phone 020 8496 3000.

Councils work together

Waltham Forest Council has joined forces with six other east London councils to drive out costly bureaucracy and deliver better value for money to council taxpayers. The Councils got together on 20 January to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that agrees to "share the machinery of local government" and work across borough boundaries where it will save money and protect frontline services. Examples of projects where councils have already shared services include a shared translation and interpretation service, shared ICT arrangements, a shared educational psychologist and a joint highways and street lighting contract. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Leaders and elected Mayors of Waltham Forest, Havering, Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge, Newham and Tower Hamlets Councils.

• Look out for more information about how the Council is saving money and making the most of funding available in the next edition of Waltham Forest News.

Brookfield House and William Morris schools

Brookfield House School and William Morris School have both launched consultations to convert to Academy status. While these schools are each running separate consultations, Brookfield House School is the proposed sponsor for William Morris School. Accordingly by forming an Academy Trust, a formal partnership between the schools would be created. If you would like to have your say on the consultations, get your point of view in by 12 noon on Friday 9 March.

• Consultation forms can be collected from either of the schools, or you can phone William Morris School on 020 8503 2225 or email governors@williammorris.waltham.sch.uk. Phone Brookfield House on 020 8527 2464 or email governors@brookfieldhouse.waltham.sch.uk or download the consultation form from their website www.brookfieldhouse-school.co.uk.



Denise Rawls, owner of card company 'Strange Fruit' in her stall at Wood Street Indoor Market



Wood Street Indoor Market has been refurbished



The project to refurbish shop front in High Road Leyton has been completed



Walthamstow Market will be improved this spring

Creating a better borough

Waltham Forest Council has five key priorities to help improve the lives of residents. In this edition we look at what is being done to regenerate our borough.

As you'll have read in previous editions of Waltham Forest News, and seen from the special cover wrap of this issue, the Council is working hard to spend money wisely to make long-term improvements to public spaces, roads, pavements, lighting, leisure and shopping areas throughout the borough.

Waltham Forest is currently undergoing regeneration and improvement totalling some £23 million. The Council's ultimate aim is make sure that the borough is an area that people want to live in, spend their leisure time in and above all invest in.

Getting the right mix to meet the needs of residents and also attract visitors to shop in the borough is essential. And attracting developers, businesses and shops to make long-term investment in Waltham Forest in turn creates better

prospects for local people through new jobs.

Here we look at just some of the schemes that are making Waltham Forest the best it can be both now and in the future.

A £1.5 million project to improve Walthamstow town centre is now underway, and the work will make a big difference to enhance the look and feel of the area.

Work being carried out will include an overhaul of the historic Walthamstow Market. A section of shop fronts at the top of Walthamstow High Street, overlooking the former Arcade site, will also be improved.

A plan has been drawn up which will change the market's stall layout to make it easier for pedestrians to cross from one side of the street to the other. Each stall will have new awnings and clear back covers. This will allow better visibility of shops along Walthamstow High Street and

will create a uniform look and smarten up the market.

The work will be completed this spring, when the market will be re-launched with new branding and advertising. It is hoped that new stallholders and new visitors will be brought into the market to make sure it continues to improve in future.

Another key piece of investment to improve shopping facilities and help

"We want to provide our residents with better streets, shops and leisure opportunities."

encourage local business growth is the refurbishment of Wood Street Indoor Market.

Waltham Forest Council was awarded £310,000 from the Mayor of London's Outer London Fund to encourage independent business opportunities in the area. The Council used the money to refurbish the rundown Wood Street Indoor Market. The

'stalls' and exterior of the building were refurbished and 20 new businesses were given the opportunity to take one of the empty stalls at reduced introductory rates.

A host of exciting new businesses have now moved in and the market will host a rolling series of art events for the next sixth months and it will also be home to a resident artist.

The newly refreshed

market now complements the high street; unlocking the economic potential of the borough's vibrant and varied shopping facilities.

Council Leader Chris Robbins told Waltham Forest News: "Thanks to all the recent investment, activity and hard work I'm sure there'll be more visitors than ever before to Wood Street Indoor market.

The area is well-connected and the wide range of new and established businesses mean there's plenty on offer.

"As well as a boost for local people and local businesses, these changes tie in with our wider regeneration plans for making Waltham Forest a better place to live. Ultimately we want to provide our residents with better streets, shops and leisure opportunities, and what we've already achieved for Wood Street forms an important art of these plans."

Meanwhile the project to refurbish shop fronts in Leyton has now finished, and several shop fronts and the buildings above them have been significantly improved, creating a fresh new look for High Road Leyton.

The Council is now trying to secure funding for refurbishment works in South Chingford.

Unfortunately the Outer London Fund recently

informed the Council that it had yet again been unsuccessful in its application for money for South Chingford. This was especially disappointing as the Council recognises that investment could make a difference to the businesses there.

Nevertheless, the Council will continue to explore all possibilities for funding for refurbishment to roads, shopping areas and public spaces in Chingford and ensure that the entire borough is a better place to live, work and invest in.

More info

For more information visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/betterplace. For more information on Wood Street Indoor Market visit www.woodstreetmarket.com. Free internet access is available at all libraries in the borough.

What you say

Residents tell Waltham Forest News what they think of the Council's plans to regenerate Walthamstow



Rachel Wilson, Walthamstow

"I've recently moved to the area and really like it. I think I'll stay for quite a while. I love the farmers market that happens on Sundays, so I'd love it if the normal market could be a bit more like that and have a better choice of stalls. I like the sound of the plans to redesign Walthamstow Market and the shop fronts. I think the area can be a little bit scruffy, so anything that can spruce it up would be good."



Jacqui Miller, Newham

"I think it's a bit of a shame the area has got run down and it's taken a while to get regeneration. But I think the plans for the market sound good. People are led by visuals so making the market look uniform will be a great idea. I come to the market because it's cheaper, the fruit and veg is fresher and it makes more economic sense in difficult financial times. I think Walthamstow Market definitely needs to be promoted and advertised to attract more people to come and use it."



Martin Goody, Walthamstow

"I think the plans for improving Walthamstow sound good. I think that the market does need a spruce up, but I don't want it to become too expensive and upmarket. It would lose its character and part of the charm of Walthamstow Market is that's a good old fashioned street market."



Ann Haylett, Walthamstow

"I think it would be nice if we could get a special feel back to Walthamstow and the market. Lots of the stalls used to be handed down through families, so I think it would be good if we could have more stalls and shops with local people selling local produce. I used to really like all the individual shops in the arcade, I'd like to see something similar coming back to Walthamstow."

Council priorities

Protect the most vulnerable

Enable vulnerable adults to have a proper choice over their social care

Provide children and young people with quality education, welfare and health services, including better school buildings

Improve the safety of our community

Find an effective solution to the gang problem

Reduce the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough

Get cleaner and greener

Clean up front gardens, streets and private land in the borough so they match the best in London

Invest in and improve our parks and open spaces for the benefit of all residents

Regenerate our borough

Regenerate our key sites and develop our housing to re-house 50% of those currently living in overcrowded conditions

Help our residents to gain skills to get back into work and support our local businesses

Make the most of the Olympic year

Make the Olympic year an unforgettable celebration for our residents

Achieve a real and lasting impact from the Olympics for our residents

Make every penny count in tough times

Our Environment

In brief

£5,000 fine for landlord

A landlord was taken to court by Waltham Forest Council when he failed to comply with improvement notices to his property after it became a magnet for anti-social behaviour. James Wallace-Jarvis of High Lane, Stanstead, Essex was found guilty of breaching two improvement notices in relation to a small block of five flats in Samantha Court, Leytonstone and fined a total of £5,000 plus £700 costs. Allegations of drugs use and supply, anti-social behaviour and small fires being set by young people led to the improvement notices being issued. When they were ignored, the Council took the matter to court.

• For more information on tackling anti-social behaviour visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/asb or phone 020 8496 3000.



Cllr Geraldine Reardon with one of the new log piles at Chingford Mount Cemetery

Cemetery's wildlife boost

Waltham Forest's largest cemetery is set to be designated a Site of Importance for Nature and Conservation (SINC)

Chingford Mount Cemetery is Waltham Forest Council's main cemetery and is still used for burials. At 14.6 hectares it is also one of the largest green spaces in the borough and has areas that make great homes for plants and animals.

The cemetery was previously designated a Site of Local Importance for Nature and Conservation, but work completed last year to provide more habitats for wildlife, in line with the Improving Londoners' Access to Nature London Plan Implementation Report by the Mayor for London, has meant the site can be upgraded to SINC level.

Cllr Geraldine Reardon, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture, told Waltham Forest News: "It is great news that Chingford Mount Cemetery is being designated a Site of Importance for Nature and Conservation."

"Many children living in the capital never see wildlife but children in Waltham Forest can encounter all sorts of birds, mammals and insects right on their doorsteps. I would, of course, remind anyone visiting the cemetery to be respectful of mourners and to make sure they don't disturb plants or wildlife."

The works in the cemetery include installation of bat, bird, owl and swift boxes, wildflower planting, placing log piles to provide habitats for beetles, insects and amphibians and tree surgery.

• For more information visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/biodiversity or phone 020 8496 3000.



Residents can now recycle all grades of wood at Household Waste Recycling Centres and staff will give more help to put waste in the right containers

New tips for waste sites

- Residents will need Council Tax bill to use Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Enforcement measures to be used to restrict commercial vans from accessing waste centres

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) – or the local tip to you and me – now have new procedures in place to increase recycling and crack down on trade waste being illegally dumped by commercial users.

The changes affect all three HWRCs in Waltham Forest at South Access Road, E17 8AX; Kings Road, E4 7HR and Gateway Road, E10 5BY. The new measures will make sure that HWRCs are restricted to use by residents – rather than vans and other commercial users – and help more waste to be recycled or reused.

Staff at the sites will be providing greater help to users to put materials in the right containers. At the moment too much waste is dumped in general refuse containers, rather than those specifically for

recyclable or reusable materials.

Cllr Clyde Loakes, Cabinet Member for Environment, told Waltham Forest News: "We're training our staff to intervene more to help residents put their rubbish in the right containers so that more of it can be used again or recycled. And we're broadening the range of materials that can now be recycled to include all grades of wood and ceramics."

A new van access policy has also been introduced. The aim is to crack down on illegal trade waste that is brought to the sites, which commercial users should be paying to dispose of themselves.

"Vans that dump their trade waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres are taking advantage of a facility designed for council taxpayers – not commercial

businesses who are duty bound to make their own arrangements that they should pay for," said Cllr Loakes.

"We can not afford to allow vans to sneak trade waste into our sites and so are tightening up the arrangements in place to stop this illegal activity."

In order to address the issue Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and CCTV cameras will be put in place at all three sites. Persistent commercial visitors can easily be identified and barred from entering.

Height barriers have also been put in place to stop vans entering, and staff will stop those van drivers who have taken to parking outside sites and walking in waste from doing so. Enforcement teams will also be monitoring fly-tipping hotspots around the borough to ensure vans do

not seek other cheap ways to dispose of their trade waste.

The final measure put in place will mean that HWRCs are restricted to use by Waltham Forest residents and those living in certain other local boroughs. In order to achieve this it will now be necessary for residents to bring their Council Tax bill with them as proof of residence.

"I hope local people appreciate the need for these measures and understand why we want to recycle as much as possible and make sure taxpayers get value for money," said Cllr Loakes. "I know both issues are important to residents."

More info

For more information visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling or phone 020 8496 3000

Getting around during the Olympics

- Traffic and travel restrictions during 2012 Games outlined
- Residents can attend drop-in sessions to view plans and get prepared



Residents are being advised to find out how their usual travel plans will be affected by the London 2012 Games, especially between Friday 27 July and Sunday 9 September when there may be road closures, diversions and traffic hotspots.

There will be a temporary Controlled Parking Zone south of Lea Bridge Road during the Games and a number of roads in Waltham Forest will also be directly affected by restrictions.

To help businesses and residents, a number of drop-in

sessions have been organised where staff from the Council, Transport for London (TfL) and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) can be asked about traffic management, access and parking.

More info

For more information visit www.tfl.gov.uk/gettingaround/london2012 and www.getaheadofthegames.com. Free internet access is available at all libraries in the borough.

Fact file

- Between Friday 27 July and Sunday 9 September the A12 westbound on slip at the Green Man Roundabout will be closed 6-11am.
- The A12 westbound and eastbound off slips at the Lea Interchange will be closed 6am-midnight.
- Games Lanes for athletes and officials only will operate from 6am-midnight on the A12 westbound close to the Lea Interchange.
- A signed diversion route along Whipps Cross Road and Lea Bridge Road will be put in place.
- There will be increased traffic and delays on these roads and other main roads through Waltham Forest.
- Residents and businesses can find out more at meetings organised by the Council and Transport for London (TfL): **Thursday 8 March**, Leyton Leisure Lagoon, High Road Leyton; **Tuesday 13 March**, The Epicentre, West Street, Leytonstone and **Wednesday 14 March**, Leytonstone Library, Church Lane, Leytonstone. All sessions run from 4-8pm.

In brief



Council seizes dangerous dog

A registered pit bull was seized by the Council's Dog Enforcement Team on 6 February after its owner was found to have breached a number of court conditions. Officers from the Council, supported by Wood Street Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, executed a warrant on an address in Wood Street following several months of intelligence gathering. Waltham Forest is the only Council in London that actively enforces the Dangerous Dogs Act. This latest seizure is the 99th of its kind that the Council has made since June 2010. Over the same period of time the Dog Enforcement Team has also executed 28 search warrants and issued 82 Fixed Penalty Notices for Dog Control Order offences.

- For more information on Dog Enforcement Team visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/animal-welfare or phone 020 8496 3000.

Foster

The life you change will be yours.

Could you offer love, care and commitment to a child who may have had a difficult start in life? Fostering a child could be one of the most rewarding things you do.

To find out more come along to meet social workers and foster carers at our information session on

Tuesday 21 February
at: **Waltham Forest Town Hall**
(Room 3), Forest Road, Walthamstow
E17 4JF (6.30pm-8.30pm)

Call

020 8496 3000

or to speak to the
Fostering Team directly call:

020 8496 1598
(9am-5pm Mon-Fri)

In Waltham Forest we believe that all kinds of people can help make a positive contribution to a child's life. So whatever your culture, race, religion or sexuality we would love to hear from you.

We particularly welcome enquiries from European families and families who would consider caring for sibling groups and children with disabilities, children with challenging behaviour and supportive people who have parenting experience for mother and baby placements.

We provide excellent support and training throughout and after the fostering process, as well as on-going training and a fostering allowance.

Alternatively, please e-mail susan.buckman@walthamforest.gov.uk or visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/adoptandfoster



What's On

Waltham Forest Council
Bringing you the Big 6 events

Party on the Pitch

Your Council is putting on six fantastic free events for residents with something exciting for everyone to enjoy.

Our next event is Party on the Pitch on Saturday 19 May, at Leyton Orient Football Club. Party on the Pitch will get your heart pumping and your feet dancing to a line up UK top 40 acts. Application for tickets will be open from 12 noon on 20 February.

Tickets are free but you must be registered. Visit www.walthamforestbig6.co.uk to apply.

Sports and fitness

Family orienteering

Saturday 25 February, 11am-1pm

Suntrap, Church Road, High Beach, Loughton, IG10 4AJ

Come to Suntrap's orienteering taster day to exercise both the mind and the body. Learn to read maps and navigate before taking your family for an adventure either in Suntrap's grounds or for the more adventurous in Epping Forest. Drop-in activity, no need to book. Family activity suitable for any age, £2 per head. **Phone 020 8521 9827.**

Seated aerobic exercise

Mondays, 10.30-11.30am

Higham Hill Pavillion, Hecham Road E17 5 QT. Mondays, 4.30-5.30pm Larkwood Leisure Centre

Larkwood Leisure Park, New Road Chingford E4 9EY

Fridays, time TBC

Langthorne Park Adizone 51 Birch Grove, Leytonstone E11 4YG

Community fit club is seated aerobic exercise aimed at OAPs, people returning to exercise, or people recovering from illness wishing to take part in gentle exercise. Everyone is welcome. There is a £2 entrance fee. **For more details phone 07956 552748.**

Onestopfitness Fitclub

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-8pm

North Chingford Methodist Church Lose weight, get fit and tone up with this comprehensive 12 week

package. It includes: establishing your goals, two resistance workout classes per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays), full nutritional support and advice, exercise prescriptions to complete in your own time and motivational emails/texts to keep you going. New Courses start every Monday. **Visit www.onestopfitness.co.uk or phone 07956 695077.**

Iyengar yoga class

Saturdays, 9-10am

St Andrew's Church Hall, St Andrews Road, E17 6AR

Thursdays, 7.30-8.30pm

St Patrick's Church Hall, Blackhorse Road, E17 6NH

General class, beginners welcome.

For more information phone

Nicholette on 07962 424460.

Yoga classes

Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30pm

Thursdays, 7-8.30pm

and 8.40-10.10pm

Friends Meeting House, Bush Road, E11 3AU

Fridays, 7-8.30pm and

8.40-10.10pm. Mondays, 1-3pm

Peterhouse Centre, Forest Rise, E17 3PW. Down-to-earth Hatha

Yoga. Help for anxiety and depression as well as physical

problems; sleep better, feel better, move better. Beginners welcome.

Fully qualified teacher since 1984.

£7 for 90 minute classes or £8

for two hour classes. **For more**

information phone Kay Russell

on 020 8554 7168 or email kay_russell_yoga@hotmail.com.

Belly dance fitness

Tuesdays, 7.10pm – 8.10pm

YMCA, 642 Forest Road, E17

Raqs Sharqi (belly dance) is the

sensual female dance form of

the Middle East and Egypt. Come

and learn fantastic new moves,

improve health and fitness, core

stability, posture and confidence in

a relaxed women only group with

Mumtaz, a professional dancer and

experienced teacher. All abilities

aged 16 and over welcome. Please

bring a scarf. £6.50 per session

or free to YMCA members. **Email**

Raqs@mail.com or phone 07799

135981 for more information.

Forest Flyerz disability hockey sessions

Tuesdays, 7-8pm

Walthamstow Academy, Billet Road, E17 5DP. Forest Flyerz is a free

service which enables kids with a

range of learning difficulties and/or

disabilities to participate in coaching

and fun hockey activities in a safe,

caring and enjoyable environment.

Featuring Zone Hockey and

Quicksticks, this is open to kids

of all abilities. Free of Charge. **For more information phone Pani Theodorou on 07985 109 002 or email flyerz@walthamforesthc.co.uk.**

Zumba Fitness

Day and times vary

Venues throughout Waltham Forest.

Phone 079036 29636, email

chloe@dancechloe.com, visit

www.DanceChloe.com or tweet

@DanceChloe.

Bellydance with Chloe

Tuesdays, 8pm

Church Hill Studios, Walthamstow, E17 3RY. £8 per class.

Phone 079036 29636, email

chloe@dancechloe.com, visit

www.DanceChloe.com or tweet

@DanceChloe.

Tell us what's on

walthamforestnews@walthamforest.gov.uk

Clubs and community

Highams Park Gardening Club

Please contact for meeting dates

Winchester Road Methodist Church

Halls, Winchester Road, Highams

Park E4 9JP. Gardening advice for

all the community. Entry £1.50

including raffle and refreshments.

Membership £4.50. **For more**

information phone David Spicer

on 020 8531 3178 or email david.spicer@yahoo.co.uk.



Free life coaching for women

Days and times vary

Walthamstow. Free life coaching for

women who want to make positive

changes in their lives.

For more information visit www.coachmesmart.co.uk, email

coachmesmart@live.co.uk or

phone 07906 007613.

Forest Book Group

Third Wednesday of each month,

7.30pm. Peking Chef, 178 Hoe

Street, E17. The group is open to

everyone - if you enjoy reading and talking about books then come along. The group members are all involved in selecting books to read and we read books of all genres - from literary fiction to sci-fi, short stories to travel journals. **For more information contact Penny Rutterford email penny.rutterford@hotmail.com.**

Interested in gardening?

Second Monday of every month,

1-3pm. United Reformed Church,

Malvern Avenue, Highams Park,

E4 9NP. Our gardening club can help

with all your gardening needs for the

whole year through. Come and learn

how and when to sow, prune, plant

seeds, what soils to use and how to

look after and buy seeds, bulbs,

plants, shrubs and trees. All the

essential techniques for a beginner

or the more experienced gardener

requires in a friendly and practical

manner. **For more information**

phone Cyril on 020 8556 3900 or

email mavis.martin@ntlworld.com

Free course for dyslexic adults

Wednesdays until 31 March, 6.30-

8.30pm. Leyton Sixth Form College,

Essex Road, E10 6EQ

The 5 week course is repeated

in January, February and March.

Waltham Forest Dyslexia Association

has received funding from the

Evening Standard's Dispossessed

Fund and will be running five week

courses. The final course session will

be on the last Saturday of the month

from 10am-1pm. **To book a place**

email Helenbigham@hotmail.co.uk.

Waltham Forest Blind Association

Tuesdays, 1-4pm

Community Place, 806 Leyton High

Road, E10 6AE. Are you visually

impaired? Have you got sight loss?

Are you looking for support? We

are happy to help you and run a

drop-in centre every Tuesday. **For**

more information phone Waltham

Forest Blind Association on 020

8556 0355, email wfba@hotmail.co.uk

or visit www.wf-ba.co.uk

Tell us what's on

Call 020 8496 3000

Culture and crafts

Objects of Desire

Monday 27 February, 7-9pm

Orford House Social Club, Orford

Road, Walthamstow, E17

Mendham Writers present a creative writing workshop with Nichola Charalambou, exploring the power of the free-write. £25 includes refreshments. Suitable for all levels. **To book email rochelle@mendham-writers.com, visit www.mendham-writers.com or phone 07743 898043.**



Love to sing?

Wednesdays, 7- 9.30pm

Singing Classes in Walthamstow for

beginners and experienced singers.

People will be taught basic vocal

and breathing techniques, as well

as how to perform and interpret a

song. Experienced singers will be

able to brush up on their technique

and work on repertoire. The small

classes are instructive, yet relaxed

and good fun. The only prerequisite

is a love of singing. **Please phone**

Felicite Brown on 020 8923 1854

for more info.

London Forest Choir

Saturday 17 March, 7.30pm

Church of St Michael and All Angels,

Palmerston Road, E17 6PQ

A programme of English music with

Gavin Roberts and Mark Williams.

Tickets £10, concessions £8,

students £5 available online at

www.londonforestchoir.org from

the ticket secretary on 020 8531

4837 or on the door.

E17 Jazz

Wednesday 7 March, 8.30- 11pm

Walthamstow Cricket Club, 48a

Greenway Avenue, E17 3QN

Jam session hosted by fantastic

trumpeter Gavin Broom. Only £3

entry for participants or £5 for

spectators. **For more information visit**

www.e17jazz.com/whatson/

Be your own Valentine

Tuesday 21 February

The Bookshop, 135 Station Road,

North Chingford, E4 6AG

An evening with Debbie Macaulay

based on the work of Louise L

Hay, author of 'You Can Heal your

Life'. This evening will be all about

looking at ways to love and approve

of ourselves - no matter what our

circumstances and past experiences.

Please ring or email to reserve your

place as we have limited space.

Phone 020 8524 9002 or email

bev@bookservice.biz

Happy Accident Studios

Thursdays from 23 February,

7.30pm. Leytonstone Social

Club, 603 High Rd, Beginner and

intermediate papercraft classes.

£7.50 per person, booking

essential. Phone or text Sy on

07710 507224 or visit www.happyaccidentstudios.co.uk.

E17 Designers Mothers' Day Special

Saturday 17 March, 1-4.30pm

The Mill, 7-11 Coppermill Lane,

E17 7HA. A mini-market for one day

to encourage you to shop locally and

from your community. Handmade

arts and crafts, ranging from bags

and purses to prints and jewellery.

Free entry, but raffle tickets for an

E17 Designers Goody Bag (or two)

will be sold in advance and on the

day, with proceeds going to the

upkeep of The Mill. E17 Designers

is a community group of artists,

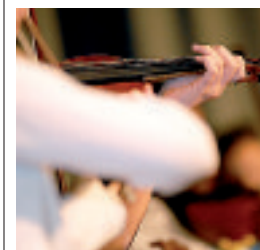
designers and makers exhibiting and

selling their work at events in and

around Waltham Forest. **For more**

information phone 07904 546294

or visit www.e17designers.co.uk.



Ukulele classes for beginners

Saturdays, 10.30-11.30am

The Quaker meeting House, 1a

Jewel Road, Walthamstow, E17 4QU

Ukulele classes for adults/beginners,

£8 per class. **Phone Dick Smith**

on 07903 419 691, email

dickbanjosmith@gmail.com or

visit www.banjosmith.co.uk

Strung out! Fun violin group for adults

Mondays, 7- 8pm for absolute

beginners. Thursdays, 6.30-8pm

for easy-intermediates

For adult enthusiasts of all levels with

a professional musician whose work

spans from the west end to womad.

All styles of music welcomed from

AIDA by Giuseppe Verdi

Saturday 17 March, 7.30pm
St. Mary's Church, Church Hill, Walthamstow E17. Vision Voices Community Opera presents a concert performance of AIDA by Giuseppe Verdi. Tickets £9 (concessions £8 and £7). **For tickets and info phone 07940 384785 or visit www.visionvoices.co.uk.**

Mythology in London

Thursday 15 March to Sunday 31 March, 12-7pm
Tokarska Gallery, 163 Forest Rd, Walthamstow, E17 6HE.
An exhibition of etchings by Anna Alcock. **For more information visit www.annaalcock.com.**

Guffaw Comedy Club

Wednesday 14 March, doors 8.30pm show at 9pm
Ye Olde Rose and Crown Theatre Pub, Hoe Street, Walthamstow
In honour of International Women's Day on 6 March, Guffaw is having some of the finest female comics on the circuit come to Walthamstow, including the legendary Hattie Hayridge, world famous as 'Holly' from the hit sit-com 'Red Dwarf', the sublime Mary Bourke, the hilarious Pam Ford and the subtle brilliance of Dimple Pau. As usual, the evening is held up by the irrepressible Susan Murray.
Tickets are £10 and can be bought now from www.wegotickets.com/ GuffawComedyClub, or from Alaric on 07971712019. They can also be bought on the door on the night.



Craft Fair

Saturday 31 March, 12-4pm
Chingford British Legion Club Back Hall, Hall Lane, Chingford E4 8HW
Sellers £5 in advance or £7 on the day for a table (set up from 11am). Buyers 20p entrance fee. Refreshments available. Proceeds to the Chingford Poppy Appeal.
For more information phone Emma on 07958 479305.

Witch Hunt Exhibition

Wednesdays to Sundays until 25 March, 10am-5pm

Vestry House Museum, Vestry Road, Walthamstow. A new exhibition comes to Vestry House Museum exploring the East Anglian witch-hunt of 1645-47.

For more information visit www.facebook.com/events/284768744908263.

Tell us what's on

walthamforestnews@walthamforest.gov.uk

Children and young people

Highams Park Youth Club

Tuesdays in term time, 7.30-9.15pm
Winchester Road Methodist Hall, Highams Park. Friendly and welcoming youth club for young people, year 8 and upwards. There are board games, a Wii, Xbox, music, crafts, a pool table, table tennis, badminton, softball, table football, darts, a cheap tuck shop and free fruit squash, all in a safe and well supervised environment. Entrance is 50p (first night free). **For more information phone Oliver on 07765 291695.**

Little Edmundos

Every Wednesday, 10-11.15am
St Edmund's Church, Larkswood Rd, E4 9DS.
Friendly atmosphere for under fives and their parents/carers - for those who like fun, crafts, songs and stories. **Email littleedmundos@gmail.com.**

Children's art workshops

Starts Saturday 25 February, 9.30am-11am
Inky Cuttlefish Studios, Lower Ground Floor, 5 Blackhorse Lane, E17 6DS
Great opportunity to get creative and have fun. Professional artists lead the sessions (all are CRB checked). Perfect for all abilities, £2 per session for drop in. All materials included. Participants will make artwork to take home and work together on projects to take part in exhibitions.
Email anna@annaalcock.com for details.

Yoga for Toddlers and Young Children

Mondays, 10-11am
Church Hill Studios, Stainforth Road.
Yoga for parents with toddlers and young children. £32 for a four week course. **Please phone Helen on 07939 607853 or email walthamstowvillageyoga@hotmail.co.uk.**

15th Walthamstow Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Wednesdays during school terms
Blackhorse Road Baptist Church Hall, Southcote Road, E17 7AQ
Rainbows-girls aged 5-7, Brownies-girls aged 7-10, Guides-girls aged 10-14. Girls will do crafts, play games, earn badges, make friends take part in adventurous activities and go on holidays. **For further information phone Kay Bibbey on 07849 530916 or email kay.bibbey@talktalk.net**

11th Walthamstow Guides

Every Wednesday during school term, 6-8pm
Local venue off Higham Hill Road. Guides are girls aged 10 - 14. They go on trips, make new friends, gain badges, develop new skills and have lots of fun. **For more information phone Sue Langley on 020 8531 7739.**



YogaBugs

Mondays and Wednesdays
Trinity United Reform Church, Orford Road, Walthamstow Village.
Magical and fun story-style adventures incorporating yoga postures. **Phone Denyse Whillier on 07853 285669 or email denyse@yogabugs.com to book your free taster session.**

Free junior indoor rowing

Wednesdays, 6-7pm
Leyton Leisure Lagoon, 763 High Road, Leyton, E10 5AB
Waltham Forest Council is running free indoor rowing training for 11-16 year olds with a focus on building both indoor and outdoor teams for the 2012 London Youth Games. Following their success last year (4 bronze medals and 1 silver medal), they are looking for new enthusiastic members to join the squad. No previous experience is necessary. Free of Charge. **For more information phone Matt Lovell on 07909 913 121 or email youth@walthamforesthc.co.uk.**

E17 Junior Guitar Club

Saturdays, 10am-12noon
Hornbeam Centre, 458 Hoe Street

Walthamstow E17 9AH

Guitar playing fun for children of all abilities. Varying groups and levels. We perform regularly. Pay £7 for a taster session, then £42 for a half-term of six lessons. **For more information phone Christian Karlsson on 07958 471083 email chris@stunningmusic.com or visit www.stunningmusic.com.**

Melody Bear Dance

Every Friday
Shern Hall Methodist Church, E17
Dance and movement for children aged 2 and over. Each course lasts 6 weeks, and involves dance, movement, dressing up and music. Collect stickers to complete a work card. On completion of two courses, a medal is received. £4.50 per week. Places are limited to 8 per class. **To book phone Nicola on 07814 781642 or email aerodance@hotmail.co.uk**

Children and Young People's Directory

Compiled by the Council's Family Information Service (FIS), the directory gives free, impartial advice on childcare, general information on a wide range of services for children, young people and families and lists leisure and recreation activities of all kinds. **For more information visit http://csd.walthamforest.gov.uk**

Tell us what's on

Call 020 8496 3000

Community Ward Forums

Chingford Green and Endlebury

Monday 20 February, 7.30-9.30pm
Chingford Assembly Hall, Station Road, Chingford E4 7EN
Arrival, refreshments and informal talk with Councillors and Safer Neighbourhood Team from 7pm

For more information on Community Ward Forums visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/community-ward-forums

Council Meetings

Tuesday 21 February

Cabinet, 5.30pm

Wednesday 22 February

Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 23 February

Licensing and Gambling Committee

Wednesday 29 February

Housing Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 1 March

Council

All meetings are held at Waltham Forest Town Hall and start at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise.



Volunteers to Run a Community Library

Volunteers Wanted!

We are nine members of South Chingford community who are working to develop and run a community library in South Chingford. We therefore need your help. We are seeking volunteers to work with us to develop and run the library.

ANY type of help is welcome. Everyone is welcome.

To volunteer please contact: **Bettina Aruoture**

E-mail: Bettina.aruoture@walthamforest.gov.uk

Phone: 020 8496 4887 - Write: Room 104, Waltham Forest Town, London Borough of Waltham Forest Community Engagement Team, Forest Road, London E17 4JF



www.towntocountry.co.uk/gilwell

t: 0208 498 5300 e: gilwell.conferences@scouts.org.uk

Gilwell Park, Bury Road, Chingford, London E4 7QW

In brief

TV switchover conmen warning

Waltham Forest Trading Standards is warning residents that cowboy contractors may use the upcoming digital TV switchover as an opportunity to charge high fees for installing equipment or carrying out unnecessary work. From Wednesday 4 April the London TV analogue signal will be switched off, and if you watch analogue TV via an aerial you'll have to convert to digital. Residents will be receiving a detailed guide through the post outlining the different options available for receiving digital TV and converting existing equipment. Converting to digital shouldn't be expensive or difficult, but make sure you ask for help to avoid getting ripped off.

• **The Switchover Help Scheme, run by the BBC, helps older and disabled people by providing everything needed to convert one TV to digital.** Phone 0800 40 85 900 or visit www.helpscheme.co.uk. If you do need new equipment, a list of Registered Digital Installers is available at www.rdi-lb.co.uk or phone 08456 50 50 50.



ASBO obtained

A Tottenham youth has been banned from entering Waltham Forest as part of an ASBO obtained by Waltham Forest police. Kyle Kemp, who is 17 and from Chisley Road in Tottenham, is not allowed into the borough unless accompanied by designated relatives. He is also banned from associating with 13 named associates in any public place across Waltham Forest, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Haringey and Newham. The ASBO was obtained at Stratford Magistrates' Court on 9 February and runs until 9 February 2014. It comes after evidence obtained by Higham Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service's Operation Connect team.

• **To find out about your local Safer Neighbourhood Team visit www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods. Free internet access is available at all libraries in the borough.**

Safer chip tips

While many of us might try to eat healthily, the lure of a big plate of chips can still be tempting. And with national chip week taking place from 20-26 February many people will be frying up a batch of the tasty morsels. While nothing more than a guilty pleasure for most, the London Fire Brigade are warning that they have to deal with hundreds of chip pan fires each year and that people have to be careful when indulging. They advise replacing traditional chip pans with electric fryers; never filling your pan more than a third full with oil and never leaving the pan unattended, even for a moment. If your pan does catch fire you should never pour water on it – you'll cause a huge fire ball. Instead, turn off the heat if possible and phone 999.

• **For more information visit www.london-fire.gov.uk**



Waltham Forest residents and councillors joined Met Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe at the launch event on 8 February

Borough backs Met gang crime campaign

- **Metropolitan Police Service launches Trident Gang Crime Command initiative**
- **Launch coincides with major gang crime clampdown across London**

Representatives from Waltham Forest were out in force on Wednesday 8 February, pledging their support for the Met's new guns and gangs task force.

More than 30 councillors, officers and young advisors from Waltham Forest attended the launch event in Trafalgar Square, hosted by Metropolitan Police Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe and the Mayor of London. Also in attendance were police officers, other council leaders and community members who have been working hard to fight the blight of gang crime.

It is hoped that Trident's new guns and gangs task force will allow the Met to pursue gangs and gang members across London through proactive operations and investigations, whilst

improved monitoring of gang activity will allow the police to focus their resources where they are needed most.

"Waltham Forest's own anti-gangs initiative stresses the importance of working in partnership with our police colleagues and members of the local community and that's why I think it's so important to back today's launch," Leader of Waltham Forest Council, Chris Robbins, told Waltham Forest News.

"There's no quick or easy way to stamp out gang crime as it requires time, energy, resources and commitment on the part of the police, public sector and local people. We've already been working alongside our hardworking colleagues in the local police to solve the problems we have locally,

and I look forward to sharing knowledge, experience and expertise with the Met as they crack down on gang crime in my borough and across the whole of London."

The event coincided with a major London-wide crackdown on suspected gang members by the 1000-strong Trident Gang Crime Command which saw drugs, weapons and stolen goods seized across the capital. Some 515 people were arrested as part of the operation, with 254 charged and 443 warrants issued.

The launch came a week after Waltham Forest hosted a parliamentary reception at Portcullis House, featuring keynote speakers Iain Duncan Smith and Louise Casey, who gave her first major talk since becoming the head of the Government's new Troubled

Families Team. Ms Casey applauded the Council's practical response to the gang problem and noted how it combined two essential elements for local authorities who wish to combat youth violence: political buy-in and excellent frontline workers.

The event sought to explain Waltham Forest's 'Enough Is Enough' gang prevention project as well as open debate on the issue of youth violence and help garner further support for the borough's groundbreaking initiative.

More info

If you have information about gang activity or crime in your local area, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Leyton



Legion Wrestling's Junior Squad with Head Coach Amir (centre back)

Wrestling success

- South England's biggest Greco-roman and Olympic freestyle wrestling club is based in Leyton
- Club also offers other low-cost fitness classes for residents

Say the word "wrestling" and you might instantly think of muscular American men wearing jazzy costumes and having outlandish choreographed 'fights' in front of an over-excited audience.

One Leyton-based club wants to change that stereotypical view of wrestling and introduce local people to the world of Greco-Roman and Olympic freestyle wrestling.

Legion Wrestling is one of the largest wrestling clubs in the southern region and is well-known among wrestlers in the UK. The club was started by keen wrestler and local GP Dr Amir Eslami under the name USB four years ago. In October 2011 the club moved to a new building to create the Legion Fitness Education Centre (Unit 5, Transform House, 16 Wellington Road, Leyton, E10 7QF) and decided a change of name was also in order.

The club has had considerable success and now wants to encourage local people to use its facilities; whether they want to wrestle or try other martial arts or aerobic exercise.

Dr Eslami told Waltham Forest News: "I have been teaching wrestling in the borough for several years and although we are well-known in wrestling circles, not many other people know about the club and what we do."

"I think it's really important that people not only hear about our wrestling successes, but also that we offer other types of exercise classes as well and can help people look after themselves and their bodies."

And Amir is keen to point out the differences between entertainment wrestling and traditional wrestling.

He said: "I describe wrestling as a physical game of chess. It isn't like the wrestling you see on TV, it's a strategic game where you

have to predict and anticipate your opponent's next move. It isn't about hurting your opponent, but about using your strength in a measured and intelligent way."

Legion Wrestling has already enjoyed some considerable success since moving to their new home. A number of members attended the British Junior Championship in October 2011 and came away with a haul of six gold medals, nine silvers and two bronzes. On the same day members of Legion competed in the Senior Greco-Roman competition and won one gold medal and two bronzes.

And one of the club's senior wrestlers, and Leyton resident, Bec-Khan Aldamov took part in the London International Invitation Wrestling tournament that took place as one of the 'London Prepares' Olympic test events in December 2011. He won the bronze medal in his class and is waiting to see if he has qualified for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

But Amir says the best thing about running Legion Wrestling is not winning competitions, but hearing that he and the fellow coaches are helping people.

Amir said: "Hearing good feedback from parents that wrestling has helped their child out is the best thing about what we do. One boy visits us from Southend and has autism. His father told us that his doctor was very pleased with the progress he has made since he began wrestling. Hearing that was better than winning any medal."

Legion Wrestling offers youth classes for ages four to 15 and adult classes for over 16s. As well as wrestling the club also offers other martial arts as well as aerobics, karate and kickboxing for women.

More info

For more information visit www.legion-wrestling.com, www.legion-fitness.com or phone 07538 900511

In brief

Free junior indoor rowing

Young people aged 11-16 who fancy themselves as the next Sir Steve Redgrave or Matthew Pinsent can take advantage of new indoor rowing sessions now happening in Leyton. The sessions take place at Leyton Leisure Lagoon (763 High Road, Leyton, E10 5AB) every Wednesday between 6-7pm. The training focuses on building a squad for both the indoor and outdoor rowing teams for the 2012 London Youth Games. Last year the team won four bronze and one silver medal at the London Youth Game and are now looking for enthusiastic new members to join the squad. No previous experience is necessary.

• For more information phone Matt Lovell on 07909 913 121 or email youth@walthamforesthc.co.uk.



New concert venue

Leyton Sixth Form College's recent £40 million building project hasn't just benefitted students but has also provided a new cultural venue for the area. The campus redevelopment includes a brand new performance venue and has seen the launch of the Leyton Season – a series of concerts, film screenings and productions open to the general public. One of the highlights so far has been the concert given by pianist Ivana Gavric when a programme of Ravel, Beethoven, Janacek and Grieg enthralled an audience of local concertgoers and students. Forthcoming events include a concert with the Piatti String Quartet on Thursday 8 March. Tickets for all Leyton Season events are £6 for adults and £4 for concessions.

• For more information visit www.leyton.ac.uk or phone 020 8928 9000.

Have fun learning English

Parents and children in Leyton can have fun learning English together at new play sessions happening on Saturday afternoons until Saturday 21 April. The 'Let's have fun learning English' sessions take place at Riverley Children's Centre (Leyton Youth Centre, High Road Leyton, E10 6RJ) from 2.15-4pm. The sessions are open to children aged 0-8 years and their parents. Children will learn to speak English in a fun way through lots of games, arts and crafts and messy play.

• For more information phone Riverley Children's Centre on 020 8539 4535.

Young People

In brief

School Chef 'Highly Commended'

In our 12 December issue, Waltham Forest News reported on Walthamstow's Chapel End Junior School Chef, Gurinder Patti, making it through to the final of the London School Chef of the Year competition. Now we can reveal that Gurinder's fruit flapjacks with strawberry and custard sauce won in the 'Highly Commended Dessert' category and she was awarded a special commemorative plaque. The quality of school meals in Waltham Forest has meant a 7 per cent increase in the number of children taking up school meals since the launch of the Council's School Meals Strategy in 2009.

• For more information about school meals visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/schoolmeals or phone 020 8496 3000.



Zoe Fang and Roza Kockaya enjoy the snow at Chase Lane Primary School

Schools beat the snow

No doubt more than a few schoolchildren were expecting a cheeky day off on Monday 6 February after the first snowfall of the year covered the borough in a blanket of white. However, only four of Waltham Forest's schools were closed or partially closed, so the vast majority of children found that it was business as usual. But by the looks of the photos sent to Waltham Forest News any dismay that the children felt at having to go to school was soon made up for in the playground, where children played happily together in the snow.

Employment Pledge gets Royal audience

Waltham Forest Council's innovative 'Employment Pledge' – that works to find jobs, training and mentoring for children in care – formed part of the discussion at an event attended by the Princess Royal on 9 February. The event was also attended by Ramatula Jalloh, who works for the Council as a Project Support Officer. She was employed as part of the scheme and helped explain issues from her perspective. The Princess Royal attended in her capacity as Patron of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education. The Council has pledged to find over 30 Work Experience positions for Year 10 students, around 40 internships for Year 12 students, and 17 post-University internships every year.

• For more information visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/careers-guidance or phone 020 8496 3000.



Dibora Asrat has been working as an intern for the Council's finance department

A brighter future

- Council scheme gives young people work experience, training and mentoring
- Creating jobs for local people is a key part of Council's regeneration plans

Last autumn Waltham Forest Council launched an initiative to provide greater support to help children in care and young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) to find work. The 'Employment Pledge' promised to target children in care during school years 10 and 12, as well as those that return to Waltham Forest having completed a degree, providing them with opportunities for work experience, training and mentoring.

The Council created a group of senior staff within the authority to act as mentors for children in care. The mentors created work experience and paid internship opportunities, both within the Council and among its contractors. As well as practical experience young people are also helped with CV writing, job search training and practise interviews.

Helping young people in the

borough to gain skills and find employment is a key Council priority and part of Waltham Forest's regeneration plans.

The Council is doing all it can to help young people, and especially vulnerable or disadvantaged young people, to improve their work skills and ensure they can make the most of employment options in the borough in the future.

Cllr Clyde Loakes, told Waltham Forest News: "It's important to give children a helping hand in securing a job. We've got a responsibility to ensure they are given as much help as possible and this scheme will provide them with the support they need to find the right career path.

"While physical improvements to roads and other infrastructure in the borough are very important, regeneration is also about creating opportunities for businesses to thrive and for local people to find work."

Already this year the Council has offered several care leavers

internships working in areas such as human resources, economic development or corporate finance.

The Council has recruited a number of Residents First Assistants to work in front-facing receptions and libraries. These entry level positions give young people NEET, or who have left Council care, excellent work-based experience and provide a stepping stone to long-term careers.

A total of 24 young people, supported by the Council's careers service, applied to become Residents First Assistants. The Council gave them a half-day interview skills workshop to help prepare for their interview, and 16 local young people were appointed as Residents First Assistants.

Dibora Asrat is a care leaver who has been working as an intern for the Council's Finance department and has been offered a position as Residents First Assistant. She said "Working for the Council

has given me excellent work experience and has really widened my view of the world of work. I have learned a lot about financial accounting, advanced use of Microsoft Office and Excel and about how to work in a professional office. I now aspire to a long career in the public sector and really recommend anyone to ask the Council for advice on what they can do."

If you're a young person interested in finding out how to get into employment or you just want some advice on writing your CV, application forms or preparing for interviews, contact the careers service.

More info

For more information visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/careers-guidance, phone the Careers Service on 020 8496 1920 or visit them at Juniper House, 221 Hoe Street, E17 9PH.

Highways

ACCOMODATION ROAD, ARBOR ROAD, ASHWOOD ROAD, BLACKTHORNE DRIVE, CHADWICK AVENUE, CONNINGTON CRESCENT, HATCH LANE, LONGSHAW ROAD, OTTERBOURNE ROAD, SAXINGHAM ROAD & WITHY MEADE, E4. - THE LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST (HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT WORKS) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE, PROHIBITION OF ENTERING, PROCEEDING & STOPPING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1) ORDER as amended by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

1. The Council of the London Borough of Waltham Forest HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that to facilitate HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT WORKS on the roads mentioned above, they intend to make a temporary ORDER, to enable road works to be carried out, because works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near the road, the general effect of which would be, only at such times and to such extent as regulatory signs, prohibit parking and traffic movements in the following roads.

2. Whilst the works are being carried out on ACCOMODATION ROAD, ARBOR ROAD, ASHWOOD ROAD, BLACKTHORNE DRIVE, CHADWICK AVENUE, CONNINGTON CRESCENT, HATCH LANE (the south and south-western arms only), LONGSHAW ROAD, OTTERBOURNE ROAD, SAXINGHAM ROAD and WITHY MEADE no person shall cause or permit any vehicle to: ENTER, PROCEED or STOP within the roads affected.

3. Nothing in the Order will apply to: -
(a) vehicle being used in connection with the execution of the said works or any public or utility vehicle;
(b) thing done with the permission or at the direction of a Police Constable in uniform or a Traffic Warden; or
(c) emergency service vehicles, subject to site conditions at the time of any emergency.

4. Whilst the roads are closed, closed, an alternative route for HATCH LANE (the south and south-western arms only)vehicles would be via Chadwick Avenue.

5. The prohibitions or restrictions specified will apply only during such times and to such extent as indicated by prescribed traffic signs.

6. The temporary restrictions or prohibitions imposed by the ORDER will come into effect on 1 MARCH 2012. The works are anticipated to be in progress for a period of 6 MONTHS, i.e. until start of SEPTEMBER 2012. The order will remain in force for a period of 12 months, to allow for unexpected events and possible remedial works, whichever is the earlier.

7. Any vehicle parked or waiting in contravention of any restriction or prohibition imposed by the Order may be removed under the provisions of the Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations 1986.

Dated: 20 FEBRUARY 2012
Mr K Valavan, Head of Highways and Infrastructure, Public Realm, Low Hall, Argall Avenue, London, E10 7AS.

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST PARKING CHARGE AMENDMENTS

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the borough intend to amend permit charges under Section 46A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and in accordance with section 25 of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

2. The new charges for voucher parking, which will come into effect on the MONDAY 12 MARCH 2012, are set out as follows: - VOUCHER PARKING

(i) Parking Duration (ii) Existing Charge (iii) New Charge			
(i) Thirty minutes	(ii) £0.50	(iii) £0.80	
(i) Sixty minutes	(ii) £1.00	(iii) £1.30	
(i) Ninety minutes	(ii) £1.50	(iii) £2.10	

(i) One hundred and twenty minutes	(ii) £2.00	(iii) £2.60
(i) All day	(ii) £5.00	(iii) £7.00

Dated: 20 FEBRUARY 2012
Mr K Valavan, Head of Highways and Infrastructure, Public Realm, Low Hall, Argall Avenue, London, E10 7AS.

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST AMENDMENT TO STEWART ROAD - CROWNFIELD CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE THE WALTHAM FOREST (CROWNFIELD CPZ) (PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. *) TRAFFIC ORDER 20**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Waltham Forest proposes to make the above-mentioned Order and under sections 6, 45, 46, 49, and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended.

2. The general effect of the Order would be to create additional parking so that outside Nos. 42 – 46 and 83 – 87 Stewart Road the existing single yellow lines would be replaced by extended CF zone permit parking at those locations.

3. Copy of the Order, the Council's statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order and of plans showing the location and effect of the Order and the proposals can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks from the date on which the Order is made or the Council decides not to make the Order, at (a) The Information Desk, Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 and (b) The Reception Desk, The London Borough of Waltham Forest, Low Hall, Argall Avenue, London, E10 7AS.

4. Any person desiring to object to any of the proposed notice and Order or to make any other representation should send a statement in writing of either their objection and the grounds thereof or of their representation to Traffic Order, Engineering Design, Low Hall, Argall Avenue, London, E10 7AS by the end of a period of 21 days from the date on which this Notice is published. All objections must specify the grounds on which they are made.

Dated: 20 FEBRUARY 2012
Mr K Valavan, Head of Highways and Infrastructure, Public Realm, Low Hall, Argall Avenue, London, E10 7AS.

Planning

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990 - SECTION 67

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following application affecting a Listed Building has been made to the Council.

APPL.NO 2012/0186/LB
ADDRESS Waltham Forest Town Hall, 701 Forest Road Walthamstow, London E17 4JF

PROPOSAL Refurbishment of Reception area including demolition of existing partitions, formation of new reception desk and meeting rooms, relocation of doors to side corridors and new internal main entrance doors.

APPLICANT London Borough of Waltham Forest
The application is open to inspection by the Public at the offices of the Development Management, Sycamore House, Town Hall Complex, Forest Road, London E17 4JF between the hours of 9.00a.m. - 5.00p.m. Monday to Friday. Any representations relating to the application should be made in writing to the Planning Division within 21 days of the date of this Notice.

Dated this day 20th February 2012
David Scourfield – Head of Development Management on Behalf of London Borough of Waltham Forest

Recruitment

Waltham Forest Community Learning and Skills Service is the local authority's direct provider of adult education and work-based training. We are looking to appoint experienced, enthusiastic and committed individuals to the following posts:

PART-TIME LECTURERS Ref: CLaSS/PTL/CA

Hours available range from 2 hours a week upwards, including evening and weekends – (Equivalent hourly rate £20.43 - £28.51) Pro rata salary £19,267.00 - £26,888.00

CLaSS has vacancies in the following subject areas. Please note that since September 2007, all staff new to teaching in the post-16 sector are required to pass the Certificate in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTTLLS) within their first year of teaching. This training is offered free to all CLaSS staff.

Arabic	First Aid – daytime only	Numeracy – Functional skills
Argentine Tango	Food Safety – CIEH registered, daytime only	Numeracy – daytime, evenings and weekends
Art – weekends only	Floristry – evenings and weekends only	Parenting
British Sign Language	ICT – weekends only	Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
Complementary Therapies, knowledge of beauty therapies an advantage	Italian	Singing
Early Years Education	Keep Fit and Exercise	Spanish
ESOL – daytime, evenings and weekends	Keyboard	Tai Chi
Family Circus Skills	Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities – English and Maths	Teaching Assistant Qualifications – Level 1 + 2 – experience of working in schools essential
Family Literacy	Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities – Preparation for Work	Turkish
Family Numeracy	Mandarin	Yoga
Fashion Illustration	Maths GCSE – evenings and weekends only	

ASSESSORS AND INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURERS

Hours available range from 2 hours a week upwards, including evening and weekends – (Actual hourly rate £20.43) working as part of a team.

- Assessors, daytime availability essential, with D32 / D33 / A1 / TAQA certificate in assessing and occupational competence to assess: Childcare - Floristry Level 2 - Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools (teaching assistant) qualifications
- Internal Quality Assurers, daytime availability essential, with D34 / V1 / TAQA certificate with occupational competence to quality assure: Childcare - Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools (teaching assistant) qualifications.

ART MODELS

clothed and unclothed required for a wide range of art classes - £8.53 per hour. Closing Date – Thursday 15th March 2012 - Interviews will be held week commencing Monday 23rd April 2012.

For an application form and further details please visit our website at www.walthamforest.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, you can contact 020 8520 3843 or write to CLaSS, Central Administration Team, Queens Road Learning Centre, 97 Queens Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 8QR. Applications must be sent to the above address or emailed to Class.CentralAdmin@walthamforest.gov.uk

“It’s an exciting time for the London Borough of Waltham Forest. We have made rapid progress over a short period of time. We are better run and services are improving. We are an ambitious Council that knows what needs to be done to continue our journey of improvement. We want staff eager for a challenge who want to be part of a successful Council. Come and work for us and contribute to developing and delivering improving services.”

Democracy

Councillors Surgeries

Cann Hall



Tunde
Davies

Liz
Phillips

Nicholas
Russell

Labour surgery 1: First and third Saturday of every month, 11am-12noon, Harrow Green Wesleyan Church, 1 Harrow Green Road, E11. No surgeries on Bank Holiday weekends.

Labour surgery 2: Fourth Friday of every month, 5.45-7.15pm, Buxton School, Cann Hall Road, E11. No surgeries on Bank Holiday weekends.

Liberal Democrat surgery: Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 10am -12noon, Buxton School, Cann Hall Road, E11. No surgeries on Bank Holiday weekends.

Cathall



Naheed
Asghar

Shameem
Highfield

Terry
Wheeler

Surgery 1: First and third Saturday of every month, 11am-12noon, Leyton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (LNLC), Leyton Mills Shopping Centre, 3 The Square, E10. No surgeries on Bank Holiday weekends.

Surgery 2: Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 11am-12noon, Harrow Green Wesleyan Church, 1 Harrow Green Road, E11.

Chapel End



Paul
Douglas

Kieran
Falconer

Abu
Samih

Every Friday, 6pm-8pm, St John's Church, 18 Brookcroft Road, E17 4LH.

Chingford Green



Thom
Goddard

Andrew
Hemsted

Michael
Lewis

Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 10am-11.30am, Parkside Children Centre, 82 Peel Close, E4 6XQ.

Endlebury



Matthew
Davis

Peter
Herrington

Roy
Berg

Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 10am -11.30am, Parkside Children Centre, 82 Peel Close, E4 6XQ.

Forest



Gerry
Lyons

Shabana
Qadir

Farooq
Qureshi

Labour surgery: Every Saturday, 11am-12noon, St Andrews Church, 153 Colworth Road, Leytonstone, E11 1JD.

Liberal Democrat surgery: Every Saturday, 10am-12noon, Cornerstone Centre, 149 Canterbury Rd, E10. No surgeries at the end of December.

Grove Green



Khevyn
Limbajee

Anna
Mbachu

Chris
Robbins

Surgery 1: Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 11am-12noon, Trinity Methodist Church, 274 High Road, E10 5PW.

Surgery 2: Third Saturday of every month, 11am-12noon, Leyton Neighbourhood Learning Centre (LNLC), Leyton Mills Shopping Centre, 3 The Square, E10.

Hale End and Highams Park



Paul
Braham

Sheree
Rackham

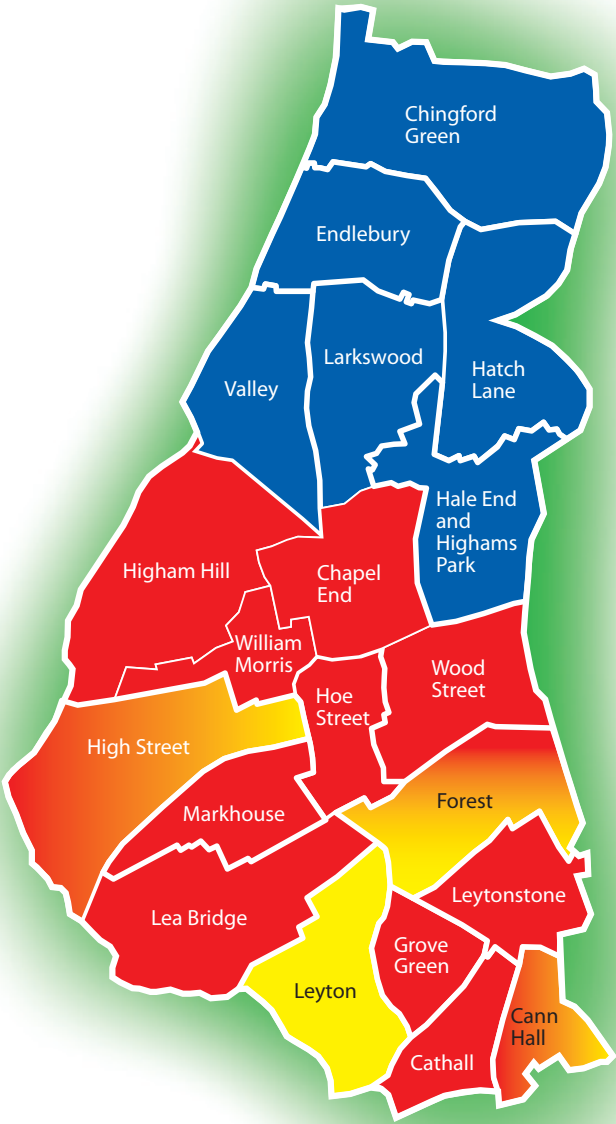
Darshan
Sunger

Surgery 1: First Saturday of every month, 10.15-11.15am, Block 118-132, Community Room, Aldriche Way Estate, E4.

Surgery 2: Second Monday of every month, 6-7pm, Thorpe Hall School, Hale End Road, E17 4DP.

Surgery 3: Third Saturday of every month, 10.30-11.30am, Hale End Library, Castle Avenue, E4. No surgeries on Bank Holiday weekends.

Waltham Forest Wards



Labour

Conservative

Liberal Democrat

Lab/Lib

Hatch Lane



Laurie Braham
Marion Fitzgerald
Geoff Walker

Surgery 1: First Tuesday of every month, 5.30-6.30pm, Longshaw Primary School, Longshaw Road, E4. Term time only.

Surgery 2: Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 10-11am, Hale End Library, Castle Avenue, E4.

Surgery 3: Third Monday of every month, 11am-12noon, Friday Hill TMO, Chingdale Centre, Chingdale Road, E4.

High Street



Liaquat Ali
Clare Coghill
Mahmood Hussain

Labour surgeries: Second Saturday of every month, 10.30am-12noon, Coppermill Primary School, Edward Road, E17, fourth Saturday of every month, 10.30am-12noon, Walthamstow Library, The Square, E17. Third Tuesday of every month, 9.30-11.30am, The Mill, Coppermill Lane, E17.

Liberal Democrat surgeries: Last Saturday of the month, 10am-12noon, Coppermill Primary School, Edward Road, E17 and all other Saturdays, 10am-12noon, 3 Palmerston Road, Walthamstow, E17 6PQ.

Higham Hill



Karen Bellamy
Geoff Hammond
Haroon Khan

Surgery 1: Every Friday, 6.30pm-8pm, Whittingham Community Primary School, 340 Higham Hill Road, E17 5QX.

Surgery 2: Second and fourth Saturday of every month, 11am-12.30pm, Higham Hill Library, North Countess Road, E17.

Hoe Street



Ahsan Khan
Saima Mahmud
Mark Rusling

Every Saturday, 11am-12noon, Customer Service Centre, Central Parade, 137 Hoe Street, E17.

Larkwood



Nick Buckmaster
Bernadette Mill
Edwin Northover

Second Saturday of every month, 10am-12noon, Chingford Royal British Legion, 63 Hall Lane, E4.

Lea Bridge



Masood Ahmad
Afzal Akram
Elisabeth Davies

Every Saturday, 10-11am, Lea Bridge Library, Lea Bridge Road, E10 7HU. No surgeries on Bank Holiday weekends.

Leyton



Naheed Qureshi
Winnie Smith
Bob Sullivan

Every Saturday, 10am-12noon, Leyton Library, High Road, Leyton, E10 5QH.

Leytonstone



Jenny Gray
Clyde Loakes
Marie Pye

Every Saturday, 10.30am-12noon, Leytonstone Library, 6 Church Lane, E11 1HG.

Markhouse



Mohammad Asghar
Asim Mahmood
Ebony Vincent

First and third Saturday of every month, 10am-12noon, Customer Service Centre, 137 Hoe Street, E17.

Valley



Jemma Hemsted
Alan Siggers
Laurance Wedderburn

Surgeries are held on a rota twice a month between:

Surgery 1: Saturday, 10.15am-12noon, Chingford Royal British Legion, 63 Hall Lane, E4.

Surgery 2: 10.15am-12noon, Paradox Centre, Youth Wing, Burnside Avenue, E4

William Morris



Nadeem Ali
Raja Anwar
Geraldine Reardon

Surgery 1: First and third Saturday of every month, 11am-12noon, Higham Hill Library, North Countess Road, E17.

Surgery 2: Fourth Saturday of every month, 11am-12noon, William Morris Community Centre, Greenleaf Road, E17.

Wood Street



Peter Barnett
Angie Bean
Richard Sweden

Every Saturday, 10-11am, Wood Street Library, Wood Street, E17 4AA. No surgeries on Bank Holiday weekends.

More info

For more information on Councillors, their role and how to contact them visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/council/about or phone 020 8496 3000.

2012 - It's happening here!

2012 is finally here and it's time to start planning the year ahead. Use our checklist to start thinking about the preparations you need to make in the lead up to the Games.

A year of celebration

It's going to be a year to remember, with so much going on you really don't want to miss out on anything that we've got planned.

- Have you checked out this year's events calendar to plan which of the fantastic celebrations you are going to attend with your family and friends? Make sure you don't miss out, take a look at the events calendar in this edition of Waltham Forest News or visit www.walthamforest.gov.uk/2012
- If you haven't already, register on The Big 6 website to make sure you can apply for tickets to two of our most exciting events, Party on the Pitch and Urban Classic. There will be competitions and prizes to be won throughout the year too! Visit www.walthamforestbig6.co.uk



Getting ready for Games Time

Being so close to the Olympic Park there's no doubt life is going to be different during Games Time.

- Public transport and the roads will both be much busier. Have you thought about planning a different route, mode of transport or time of travel to make everyday journeys to the supermarket, dropping the kids off and getting to work smoother? You can visit www.tfl.gov.uk/2012 for more information and advice.
- Do you rely on support services from the Council or family and friends? If so, talk to them about their plans for Games Time, so you can work together to prepare for any adjustments that may need to be made. We will keep you updated and help you think about the preparations you need to make in the lead up to the Games.

Getting more from the Games

We've seen a number of fantastic additions to the borough as a result of the Games that will benefit residents for years to come and create a valuable legacy for the borough.

- Keep your eye out around the borough to see the latest street scene improvements taking place, including the new Ruckholt Road pedestrian and cycle bridge, which will be in place by the Spring.
- Many of our parks are undergoing a makeover, Abbotts Park and Lloyd Park will see improvements in time for the Games, and you can look forward to the reopening of the William Morris Gallery in summer 2012 following a £5million refurbishment.





Better Streets ■ **Better Shopping** ■ **Better Leisure**

Creating a better place to live

As well as making the most of what we've got we are doing our best to bring in a mix of new high street and independent shops so you won't have to go further than your own doorstep to bag a bargain.

The former car park between South Grove and the railway line in Walthamstow has been sold to Morrisons for the building of a superstore and residential apartments, bringing better facilities and more affordable housing to our borough.

We are making Walthamstow Market even better, with improvements to the stall layout, new canopies for stalls and addressing the cleanliness of the market. This new offer will encourage a bigger array of stall holders to trade in our historic market and enhance the offer of Walthamstow as a place to shop.

We have also successfully invested in 20 shops in Leyton renewing their shop fronts, making them more attractive and inviting, and will shortly be doing the same in Walthamstow. We have also

tried to secure funding from the Mayor of London for South Chingford but unfortunately this has been unsuccessful.

Waltham Forest's mix of high street shops and the new look market will make the borough a 'must visit' for residents and visitors.

Wood Street has benefited from funding from the Mayor of London. A florist, an Artisan bakery, a film-makers-shop, vintage clothes, accessories and poster shops were among the 21 shops that opened their newly painted doors to the public last weekend (11 February) as part of the

revamped Wood Street Indoor Market. There are also new spaces run by Craft Guerilla and Significant Seams, and exhibitions by E17 Designers and the Waltham Forest Arts Club, making this well worth a visit!

Waltham Forest's mix of high street shops and the new look market will make the borough a 'must visit' for residents and visitors. More information is available at:

www.walthamforest.gov.uk/betterplace



Waltham Forest



Waltham Forest Council Chief Executive Martin Esom, Bob Neil MP, Thames Water Chief Executive Martin Baggs and Council Leader Chris Robbins at the Walthamstow Wetlands site.



Better Streets ■ **Better Shopping** ■ **Better Leisure**

Creating a better place to live

We want Waltham Forest to provide more by way of entertainment so there's something fun on offer for you wherever your interests lie.

Described by Boris Johnson as "London's best kept secret" the exciting 'Walthamstow Wetlands' project, in which we are planning to open up the reservoirs to the north west of the borough to the public as a nature reserve, recently won a prestigious planning award. In May we will hear if our request for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been granted. We think it's a fantastic project and are keeping everything crossed.

The William Morris Gallery is currently undergoing a major transformation. The new Gallery will be open before the 2012 Games and will offer new and exciting displays on the life and work of the world famous William Morris.

Lots of work is currently being undertaken on improving the borough's parks and open spaces. Lloyd Park has received £3.5million funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to build a new hub building, play area, bowls pavilion and gardens. The park is expected to open during summer 2012.

Abbotts Park will benefit from new tennis courts, which should be completed by April 2012, and Marsh Lane Playing Fields will benefit from new high-quality natural turf pitches. Work on the Playing Fields is expected to be completed in summer 2012. Work in Drapers Field is expected to start in early 2013 and will include a new all-weather pitch, a grass junior football pitch, sand-based sports facilities and new play facilities.

Lloyd Park has received £3.5million funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Chingford Cemetery, Waltham Forest's largest, is set to be designated a Site of Importance for Nature and Conservation once work has been completed to provide more habitats for wildlife. The works include installation of bat, bird, owl and swift boxes, wildflower planting, placing log

piles to provide homes for beetles, insects and amphibians and extensive tree surgery.

Also in Chingford, children will benefit from a new dipping platform on the pond at Pimp Hall Nature Reserve, enabling them to search for the creatures that live in the pond and get closer to nature. The platform should be installed by the end of March.

With so much going on make sure you check out what's improving in your area. We still have more exciting plans to announce so keep an eye for information in Waltham Forest News soon. For more information on how we are improving leisure facilities visit:

www.walthamforest.gov.uk/betterplace